

BIG BLAZE IN BROOKLYN.

THE LOSS ABOUT A MILLION.

SMITH, GRAY & CO.'S CLOTHING STORE GONE
OTHER STORES AND HOUSES DESTROYED AND DAMAGED.

The eight-story clothing house of Smith, Green & Co., at Fulton-st., Flatbush-ave., and Nevins-st., Brooklyn, was totally destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon, and several adjoining buildings were partly or entirely burned. The Kings County Elevated Railroad structure was also badly damaged. The total loss amounts to near \$1,000,000. Edward Comer, the proprietor of a liquor store at Nevins and Livingston-st., was passing by the burning building at the time of the fire.

The building had generally been supposed to be fireproof, but it proved not to be so. It was pentagonal in shape, and had a total frontage of 17 1/2 feet in Nevins-st., Flatbush-ave., and Fulton-st. The depth from Fulton and Nevins sts. was 95 feet. The first three stories were of No. 1 yellow brown brick and the upper five of terra cotta and yellow burnt brick and iron. At the extreme west

The building on the Fulton-st. front was a two-story-nine feet square rising 196 feet above the sidewalk. The building was built in 1888-'89. Formerly all the floors were of wooden joist. Afterward a fireproof floor of brick arches was put between the third and fourth floors. The building belonged to Millard F. Smith and W. G. H. Randolph, who are members of the firm of Smith, Gray & Co. Above the five floors the building was occupied by the Fulton & Flatbush Storage Company, of which Messrs. Smith and Randolph

to the principal members. There were 400 rooms devoted to storage, and 300 of them were rented to different persons and were filled with a great variety of goods.

When the firemen reached the burning building in response to the third alarm, the flames had reached the clothing on the first floor, and a dense mass of smoke filled the whole place, driving out the men. No flames appeared on the outside of the building for two hours after the first alarm. Streams of water were turned into the windows on the three street-fronts, but the

One, on the Nevins-st. side, went to the top of the building, and the flames escaped through the skylight.

building, and carried the flames through the window eight stories. The other, on the Fulton-st. side, went up only to the third story. The shafts carried the fire quickly from the ground to the upper floors above the fire-wall, and the stored furniture

The Johnston Building, at the opposite corner of Nevins-st. and Flatbush-ave., caught fire near the roof, and was with difficulty saved. To the south of the building in Nevins-st. was the three-story brick stables of I. F. Tillotson. Eleven horses were taken out before it caught fire.

was totally destroyed. The stable belonged to Joseph Jefferson, the actor. He refused \$75,000 for it within a year. He also owned the adjoining building, occupied by A. McLean as a veterinary hospital, which was also badly damaged.

As the flames spread the tower caught fire. The sight was a striking one. The clock kept running while the dial was illuminated by the fire within. It ran to 3:33 p. m., when the hands dropped off. Five minutes before this the walls on the Nevins-st. side began to fall into the street. Five minutes later the tower toppled and fell. The top went into the building, and the adjoining store, completely crushing it.

The middle of the tower fell into the street, striking the Flatbush-ave. station of the Kings County Elevated Railroad. The side of the house was knocked in, and the platform was almost totally destroyed. The mass of bricks falling on the elevated structure broke down one of the main girders of the south track for about fifty feet.

The girder fell into the street and lay across the tracks. The south stairway was also broken down. The north track was not damaged, and after an examination had been made traffic, while

had been suspended because of the heat was resumed, a few trains being run by switching the trains on to the one track at that point. The Fifth-ave. elevated trains on the Union Elevated road were not stopped. The loss to the Kings County Elevated Railroad Company amounts to \$10,000.

five four-story brick stores belonging to the Co. state, which were occupied by Cooper, the Vienna bakery, John C. Grennell's paint-store, Charles Webster's liquor-store, and Wheeler & Wilson's sewing machine rooms. The upper floors were used for dwelling apartments. All the stores were

damaged. Cooper's place and the bakery were destroyed, and the firemen had hard work to keep the paint-store from going. George Lockitt's grocery store and William Berri's Sons' carpenter store were damaged by smoke. A row of houses

in the rear of these stores, fronting Grove Place, was damaged, and a wooden house belonging to William Berri was almost wholly destroyed. The fire spread from the houses on the north side of Livingston-st., a block away, and several families moved out.

By 5 o'clock the big building with the two stories on each side of it was nothing but a mass of smoking brick and iron from which rose pieces of the wall in some places six stories high.

Two firemen were seriously injured. Before the flames broke out of the building, Charles Shea, of Truck No. 3, was on a ladder trying to get a stream into one of the Fulton-st. windows to help hold the ladder. It slipped, throwing him twenty-five feet to the ground. His head struck on a mass of broken glass which penetrated his skull, inflicting a compound fracture. He was taken to the Brooklyn Hospital. James Mallon, of No. 206 Pearl-st., assistant foreman of Truck No. 5, was struck by the falling wall in Nevins

Thomas Burns, twenty-seven years old, of No. 94 Hicks-st., a fireman on Engine No. 3, fell off the roof of a house in Grove Place, and received a severe scalp wound. He was removed to St. Luke's Hospital.

Joseph Sheppard, thirty-three years old, of No. 38 Hudson-ave., a fireman, was overcome by smoke and taken to the Brooklyn Hospital.

One fireman, who with others dropped hose and ran when the tower fell, rushed across the street and into the plate glass window of a store, cutting his nose. Several spectators were slightly cut by

The loss will amount to nearly \$1,000,000. The Smith, Gray & Company building was valued at \$1,000,000. It was insured for \$175,000. The

nothing stock was insured for \$150,000 in the individual Underwriters' Company. The storage company had \$150,000 insurance on the stock there, and the owners had \$27,000 more. The loss of the Cox estate is fully \$35,000, and Joseph Jefferson about \$25,000. It is impossible to estimate the loss of the numerous tenants in the

The firemen were greatly hampered in their work through the lack of a water tower. The streams of water could not be got above the fifth story, and the roof burned without hindrance. Citizens were generally indignant, and said that with a water tower there should have been no fire.